

Friday, August 28, 1998

AFTER DARK

By LEAH MURRAY
Echo Managing Editor

When class is over and the textbook is closed, students can take advantage of the nightlife and social hot spots. Establishments stretch from Depot Town to downtown Ypsilanti and areas just surrounding Eastern Michigan University's campus.

Ypsilanti offers a variety of nightlife—and daylife—catering to almost everyone's social preferences. This section is a social overview to some of the city's most popular hangouts and happenings, all within walking distance from campus.



Depot at Dusk

A double exposed view of the Historic Depot Town area gives a surrealistic view of what many college students see on an average weekend.

Photo by Mark Gjukich

Make a regular stop beside the tracks

By DAVID MARQUARD
Echo Columnist

The Sidetrack Bar and Grill resides on Cross Street in Ypsilanti's Historical Depot Town.

Sidetrack is a simple bar that attracts, for the most part, dedicated customers that keep coming back.

Leon Ringl has been coming to the Sidetrack for so long that he himself isn't even sure how long it's been.

"I can't even tell you," he said. "Twenty years. Whatever the maximum is—a long time."

Marie Jones has also been coming to the Sidetrack for the past 20 years, and she claims it was the burgers that brought her in.

"I come here one to seven times a week," she said.

"This whole place is full of regulars," said Linda French, who's owned the Sidetrack since 1979.

Sidetrack is a little like Cheers, except it's not as bright. Then again, this isn't television, this is Ypsilanti. Inside Sidetrack, there are no strobe lights; there is no dancing. The only music heard is softly played jazz and blues.

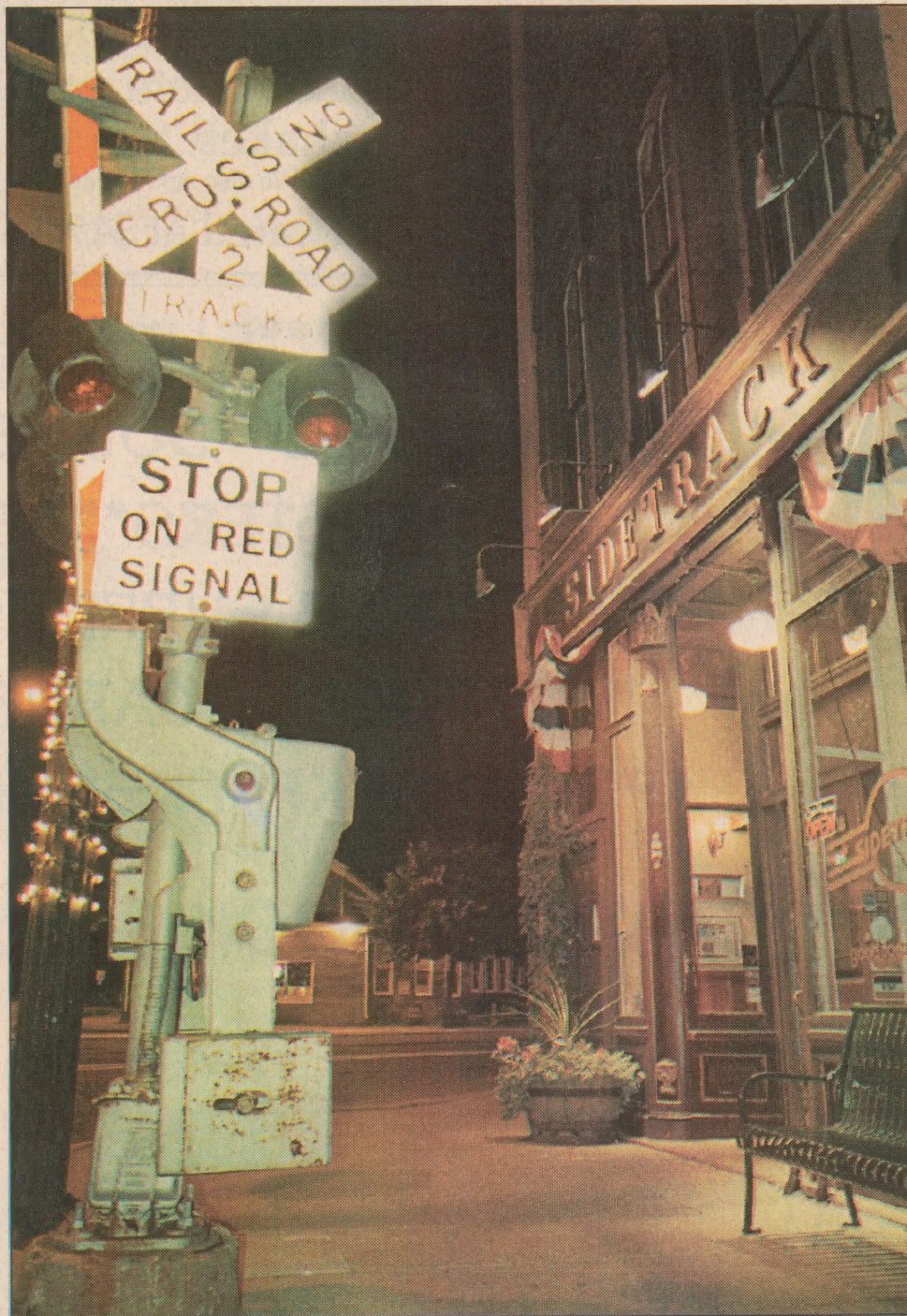
Matt Houser, who commutes here from Jackson four or five times a month, says that he likes the bar because it's quiet.

The only consistent noise you hear is the steady hum of assorted conversations while people eat a meal or have a drink, and the only noise that's loud enough to interrupt a conversation is the heated whistle and the rolling wheels of a train.

The customers don't seem to mind it at all, in fact, it's a common ritual to "lift your feet up when the train's coming," said Janet Rich, a regular customer for the past 20 years.

After all, this is the Sidetrack. French was the one who gave the bar its current name because it just makes sense. "It's on the side of the tracks," she said.

The train does come, whether it goes by in the middle of the day or deep into the Ypsilanti night. It's gone, for just a little while and then it comes back—just like a lot of the customers. They've been coming and going for years, and they will continue to do so.



Sidetrack Bar and Grill, located at 56 East Cross St.

Eastern Echo/Mark Gjukich

Tired of bars?

Try alternative avenues; there's plenty to do around EMU

By DAVID A. PAGAC
Echo Staff Writer

So, here you are at Eastern Michigan University, and you want something to do. The bars aren't your thing, you're not 21-years-old, you're bored, whatever. Take heart, there are things you can do.

If you like coffee shops, there are a couple right near campus. First, there is Vinyl Joes, located at 517 Cross St. This shop contains not only a variety of coffee drinks, sodas and bagels, but they also have new and used CDs for you to listen to and possibly purchase.

The Mudd House, 317 Cross St., is a uniquely-decorated establishment that hosts bands, poetry readings, various games to play, and offers flavored coffee, juices and food.

Both places have a variety of music to listen to and have no cover charge.

For the ice cream lover, visit a few of the area's ice cream shops. In Depot Town, there is Miller's Ice Cream Parlor located at 42 Cross Street.

Across the street from the Towers at 1098 Huron River Drive, there is Baskin-Robbins., and at 1801 Washtenaw Ave., there is Dairy Queen. These three places can show how tasteful and cool Ypsilanti can be.

Now that you have your ice cream and are energized from the coffee, relax, take a walk and get to know nature. Here are a couple of parks you can visit.

See ALTERNATIVE, page 6

Elbow Room stretches to meet needs of customers

By SPARKLE WALL
Echo Staff Writer

"It's downtown's Ypsi's best kept secret," said Tony Anderson, owner of The Elbow Room, 6 South Washington.

The bar is quiet and friendly in the daytime. However, don't let it's day presence fool you. At night, the bar comes alive with a mixed crowd of area college students and locals.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, Big M and DJ Smalls rock the bar with modern rock and retro dance music. With a student I.D., pitchers of beer cost \$1.50. Tuesday night features an eight ball tournament for the pool sharks, and Thursday night is spent with a karaoke machine and some brave patrons that like to sing.

On Friday and Saturday nights, The Elbow Room entertains the crowd with live bands that range from country to classic rock.

Sunday afternoons, karaoke strikes again, this time welcoming children to The Elbow Room to participate in the singing and take advantage of the free pizza.

For birthdays, free weekend parties are given with advanced notice. The Elbow Room also brags of having downtown Ypsilanti's largest dance floor and biggest light show. And there is never a cover charge.

The management of the Elbow Room is currently adding a kitchen to feed all their hungry patrons.



The Elbow Room, located at 6 South Washington in the downtown area.

Photo Illustration by Mark Gjukich

Historic Tap Room gives patrons a chance to relax

By CARL LITTLE
Echo Staff Writer

If you are looking for a classic bar with great blues and lots of atmosphere, then wander over to the Tap Room, 201 West Michigan Ave.

According to bartender Charlie Frye, the Tap Room was established in 1941, during World War II when Willow Run Airport hired dwarfs to work on the bombers due to a labor shortage and their ability to maneuver in small areas. This is, perhaps, why the Tap Room's door handles are set so low.

"The dwarfs of Willow Run ... maybe it's an urban legend, you tell me," said Frye.

Besides the low door handles, the bar is filled with dark wood, brass and an inlaid ceiling. The atmosphere is warm and relaxing.

Behind the full length bar stands Frye, smiling warmly at his customers, who are immediately made to feel welcome. The crowd is a mix of college students and regulars.

Historical pictures of Ypsilanti climb the walls. Music plays from the imitation Wurlitzer jukebox.

Toward the rear of the bar stands a small stage where live bands, such as the Blue Rays and the Prodigals, perform on the weekends. The stage is also home to open mic nights, electric



The Tap Room, located at 201 West Michigan Ave. in the downtown area.

Eastern Echo/Mark Gjukich

and acoustic, and to karaoke lovers on Sunday night.

Along with music and drinks, the Tap Room also sports a full menu, complete with salads, sandwiches and much more.

The Tap Room has been under its present ownership, Brian and Lisa Brickley, for the past four years.

"If you like old time bars and listening to the blues, this is the place to come," said Lisa.



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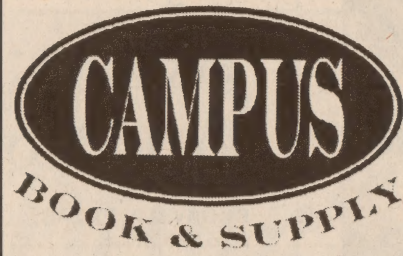
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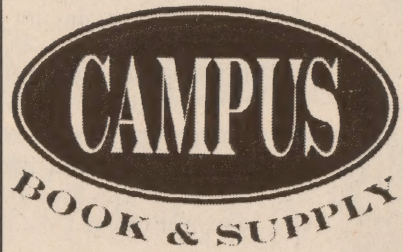
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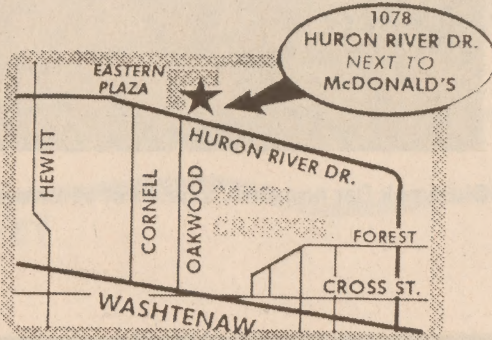
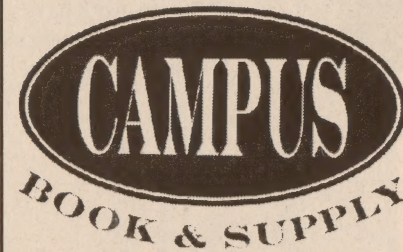


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TC's Speakeasy, located at 207 West Michigan Ave. in the downtown area.

Eastern Echo/Mark Gjukich

TC's stays cool

Old-fashioned structure adds to overall charm

By CARL LITTLE
Echo Staff Writer

T.C.'s Speakeasy Bar and Grill owner Ty Cool refers to his 24-year-old bar as "historically reclaimed."

The original brick, fixtures and ceiling contributes to the friendly atmosphere, untouched by the years.

"We took an old bar and made it older," Cool said.

The bar and grill is a deceptively large venue offering nightly drink specials, a full menu and great entertainment.

"I wouldn't work here if I didn't love it," bartender Steve Mayka said. "This is a neighborhood bar."

Like other neighborhood bars, it draws a healthy mixture of people: from college students to professors, from other University personnel to professionals working in the city.

T.C.'s is well known for its Al Capone burger, but Mayka also recommends the Cook's Thursday night spaghetti dinner.

The menu lists a complete selections of soups, salads, burgers and munchies.

Live bands are brought in to play on Friday and Saturday nights, which usually draw in the biggest crowds, according to Cool.

On Wednesday, there is Trivia Night, where customers can win prizes, such as concert tickets.

There's Karaoke on Tuesday nights, and the Great American Blues Jam takes over on Sunday nights.

A bar located in the downtown sector of a city may expect to have some problems every now and then, but Carlos Roper, an employee for almost a year, said he hasn't seen anything like that.

"They never have any trouble," said Roper. "People sometimes think this part of Ypsilanti is dangerous, but it's not. We're right on the main street."

T.C.'s is located at 207 West Michigan Ave., right around the corner from the College of Business.



Eastern Echo/Andrew S. Piper

BW-3s, located at 124 Pearl St. in the downtown area.

Offers much more than just wings

By SPARKLE WALL
Echo Staff Writer

Did someone say wings?

BW-3s, nationally famous for its chicken wings, is a local sports bar located on the corner of Pearl and Washtenaw. It caters mainly to college students, locals and the young area work force. During sporting events, though, the crowd is mostly all college students.

BW-3s was made famous for its buffalo wings, which are offered in 12 different degrees of hotness. In the fall, during Monday Night Football, BW-3s stages a wing-eating contest that stretches across the nation. At the end of season, there is a wing-eating grand finale featuring the nationwide finalists. Last year's winner received a ski resort vacation in Colorado.

"We have the best wings around," said co-owner Jim Womack.

"It's an easy atmosphere to work in," said Bobby Kramer, manager and bartender for almost two years. "There's not a lot of problems and everyone has a good time."

The Ypsilanti BW-3s is one of approximately 100 franchises across the United States. The corporation is planning to have a total of 400 BW-3s in the next five years, said Kramer.

Womack and partner Mike Ansley provide entertainment in the form of NTN, a trivia game in which their bar competes against other local bars. Also, BW-3s provides two big screen televisions and 17 smaller TVs.

For music loving customers, BW-3s has a jukebox that plays a variety of music. On Tuesday nights, a live band entertains the crowd with music that ranges from jazz to rock.

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



The Wooden Nickel, located at 901 Huron River Dr.

The two sides of the Wooden Nickel: Which one is for you?

By DAVID MARQUARD
Echo Columnist

It doesn't matter if the sun is hanging over the city of Ypsilanti or hidden deep inside of the dark night, the Wooden Nickel Saloon and Eatery is open.

This is the Wooden Nickel and there are two sides to every coin. Just like the sun that rises and the sun that hides, the Nickel changes depending on which face is showing.

The doors swing open at 10 a.m. and then they swing shut at 2 a.m. Monday-Saturday. During its open hours, the kitchen is always serving, and the lights are always dim.

Whether you like to go out to a bar to eat or drink, dance or throw darts, play pool or pinball, feed the jukebox or eye the television, or simply converse and relax, the Wooden Nickel has it all and it's open for adults 18-years-old and over.

"Everyone can find something to do here," said Mike Squires, the Wooden Nickel's manager. "If they can't find anything to do, they should stay at home and play video games."

On Wednesday-Saturday nights, the Wooden Nickel brings in DJ Eric Dristy, who plays a large variety of musical tunes to an audience that consists of mostly college students. Dristy's music ranges from rock 'n' roll to country to retro, but, "no hip-hop; no rap," Squires said.

In rhythm to Dristy's music, Justin Hoff said, "It never gets rowdy in here—it's really laid back."

Everyone can find something to do here. If they can't find anything to do, they should stay at home and play video games.

Mike Squires,
Wooden Nickel manager

As the capacity quickly rises, a line streams away from the Wooden Nickel's entrance with the patron's abrupt interest in the \$1.50 a pitcher special of Coors Light.

"It's a local bar during the day and a college bar at night," Jacob Grisius said, sitting at a table, sharing a pitcher of the day's special.

During the day, the atmosphere shifts from the late night music frenzy to a calm, low-key eatery. Patrons come to share a meal and conversation.

"A lot of people are the workers in the area coming in for lunch," Squires said.

Theo's doors open to the campus crowd



Theo's, located at 705 West Cross St.

Local establishment provides place for students to meet, greet

By KATIE COONEY
Echo Staff Writer

When it comes to location, you can't get much closer to campus than Theo—Door's.

Located one block down from McKenny Union on Cross Street and next door to the Tower Inn Restaurant, Theo's is practically on campus.

Theo's 18-years-old and over policy gives those students who are not yet 21 years old someplace to meet with friends.

"A lot of my friends are over 21,

so Theo's is cool because it gives us a place that we can all go and hang out," said Jen Jones, EMU sophomore.

Every Monday night at Theo's is Greek night, providing an opportunity for students in the Greek system to get together.

"It provides a positive sense of community for those EMU students that are Greek," said Ian Dismor, a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity.

On Wednesday night, you can let

loose and share your vocal talents with everyone during Theo's karaoke night. You don't need any real talent, just follow along with the words on the screen and have fun!

Theo's also has a night truly dedicated to the financially-challenged college student. Thursday night is the original quarter beer night, with pitchers of beer starting at \$1.50.

Theo's has plenty of room to shake it on the dance floor or, if you're in the mood to rack 'em up, Theo's also has pool tables.

Notification of Student Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. They are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day EMU receives a request for access.

Students should submit to Eastern Michigan University's (EMU) Registrar's Office written request that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. A university official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the university official to whom the request was submitted, that official to whom the request should be addressed.

- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Students may ask the university to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the university official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the university decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the university will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- 3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate education interests. A school official is a person employed by EMU in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom EMU has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Regents; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the university discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll EMU has designated the following items as directory information and these items may be included in publications or disclosed upon request without consent: the student's name; address; telephone listing; electronic-mail address; date and place of birth; major field of study; class schedule; class roster; participation in recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; dates of attendance; degrees and awards received (including, but not limited to, the Dean's List); and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

EMU reserves the right to make directory information public unless a student's written objection (specifying the category of information not to be made public without prior consent) is filed at the Undergraduate Records Office within 14 days after each term begins.

Students who do not want to be included in the annual EMU Student Directory should complete a Directory Exclusion Card. Cards can be picked up from University Publications, Housing, and Dining Services, Registrations or the Library Copy Center. They must be turned in by Sept. 15 to the Library Copy Center or University Publications. Completing the Exclusion Card will remove your name, address and phone number from the current and subsequent telephone directories.

- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by EMU to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

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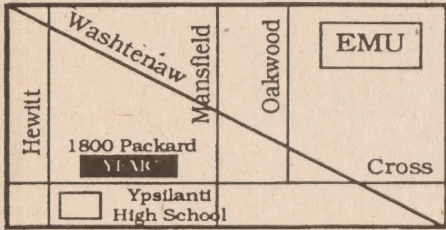
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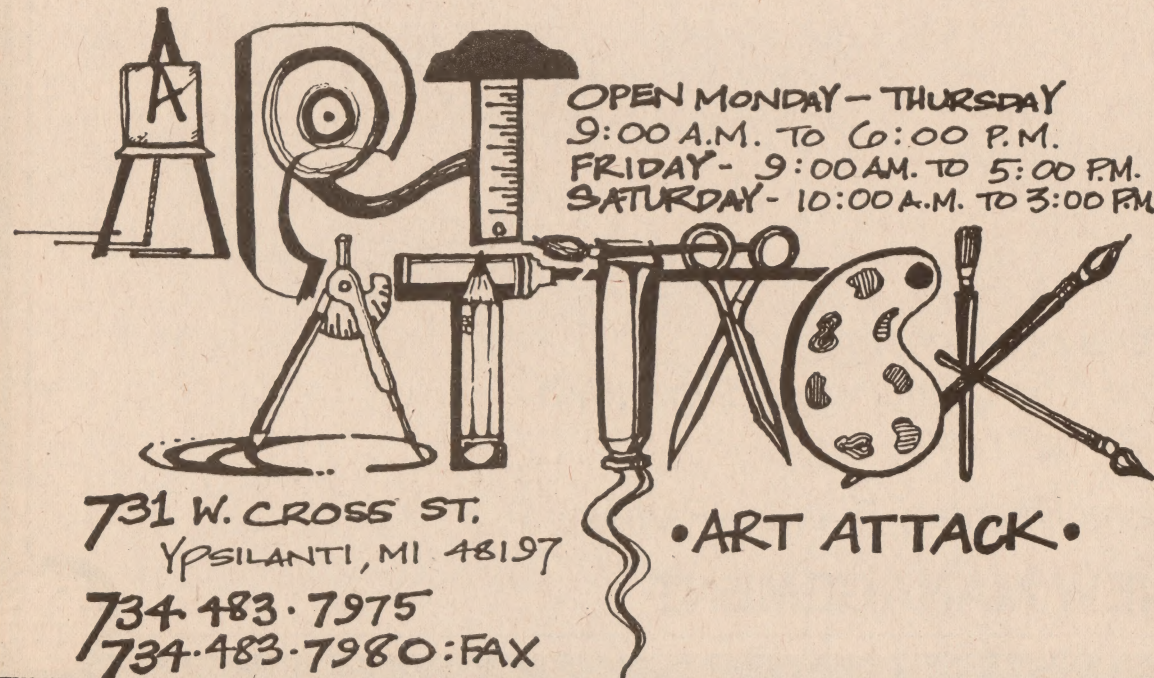


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Patrons of the arts: Take note

1998-99 Theater Season

Oliver, based on *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, lyrics and book by Lionel Bart, directed by Kerry Graves. 8 p.m. Oct. 16, 17, and 22-24, and 2:30 p.m. Oct. 18 and 24.

Ghost of the River House, by Max Bush, directed by Karen Smith-Meyer. 2:30 p.m. Nov. 21, 22 and Dec. 5., and 8 p.m. Dec. 4 and 5.

The Gifts of the Magi, book and lyrics by Mark St. Germain, music and lyrics by Randy Courts, directed by Ken Stevens. 8 p.m. Dec. 11, 12 and 19, and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 12, 13, 19 and 20.

Oedipus the King, by Sophocles, translated by Kenneth Cavander, directed by Wallace Bridges. 8 p.m. Feb. 17-20, and 2:30 p.m. Feb. 21.

The House of Blue Leaves, by John Guare, directed by Pirooz Aghssa. 8 p.m. April 9, 10 and 15-17, and 2:30 p.m. April 11.

The Fantasticks, book and lyrics by Tom Jones, music by Harvey Schmidt, directed by Ken Stevens. 8 p.m. June 4, 5, 10-12, and 2:30 p.m. June 5.

For those interested in auditioning for any of these plays, look at the audition board on the second floor of Quirk across from the theater office. Audition dates for *Oliver* are Sept. 3 and 4; and they are open to all students.

Other theater performances are held in the lab theater at Quirk, with shows and dates pending. Also EMU's Close-Up Theatre Troupe will be having various performances on campus.

Fall 1998 Ford Gallery Events

Forest Dance. Organic, found wood sculptures by artist Duane Paxson. Opening reception: 3-5 p.m. Sept. 9. Exhibit runs from Sept. 9-Oct. 2.

Annual Faculty Exhibition. Opening Reception: 3-5 p.m. Oct. 7. Exhibit runs from Oct. 7-23.

Annual Alumni Exhibition. Juried by Tony Hepburn and Robert Wilbert. Opening reception: 3-5 p.m. Oct. 28. Exhibit runs from Oct. 28-Nov. 13.

Outsider Artists, featuring Smokey Brown, Levent Isik, LaVerne Brown. Special Gallery Talk by Dr. Richard Rubinfeld: 2 p.m. Nov. 18. Opening Reception: 3-5 p.m. Nov. 18. Exhibit runs from Nov. 18-Dec. 18.

For more information, call Gallery and Exhibit Information at 734/487-1268.

— Compiled by David A. Pagac



Cross Street Station, located at 511 Cross St.

Keeping the Cross Street Station fresh

By DAVID MARQUARD
Echo Columnist

Pub style is how Erik Erickson describes his bar, The Cross Street Station. "Most people who've gone to Europe—they come back and they say, 'oh yeah, it's a pub'."

Erickson has owned the Cross Street Station for 15 years, and five nights out of the week, he's overseeing the bar with his daughter, Liz. He stays around his bar to make sure everything runs smoothly. But also, and more importantly, he comes down to see the people.

It is the people, after all, that has kept Cross Street Station standing for the past 15 years.

"The crowd changes every night," Erickson said, "and 99 percent are college students."

"There's people from all different places," said Maria Harrington, a customer from Cross Street Station for two years. "It's very diverse, and they have good bands."

What makes Cross Street Station so diverse is the way in which Erickson has outlined the weekly lineup.

On Monday, they feature European style quiz night, hosted by Liz

Erickson.

DJ Speedy Smith takes over the stage on Tuesday night, spinning the night into a retro frenzy—and be warned, if you're not there early, you'll be standing in a line.

Wednesday night is Motown night featuring the Sound Scientist and the music that is spun is straight from the Motor City.

On Thursday-Saturday nights, the music is live and ranges from rock 'n' roll to rap to p-funk.

"They have a pretty steady flow of good bands," said Matt Snyder, EMU senior who goes to see the live music.

The week winds down on Sunday, and Cross Street Station has its doors open for anyone who likes Ska.

One of Erickson's philosophies in terms of running a college bar is that, "you have to keep it fresh ... and you have to get it right in September." Erickson, along with his daughter, are currently thinking about introducing a techno night.

Cross Street Station is generally a down to earth bar. The lights are low, the entertainment is alive and behind the long wooden bar, a jester's laugh is engraved into a mirror.

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Ghost of the River House

November 21-22, December 4-5

Timeless theatre by Michigan playwright Max Bush, directed by Karen Smith-Meyer, appropriate for ages 7 and up.

The Gifts of the Magi

December 11-13, 19-20

Heartwarming holiday musical, directed by Ken Stevens, book and lyrics by Mark St. Germain, music and lyrics by Randy Courts.

Oedipus the King

February 17-21

Sophocles' classic tale returns to its source, Egyptian Pharaoh Akhnaton, in this bold production directed by Wallace Bridges.

The House of Blue Leaves

April 9-11, 15-17

Delicately balanced between farce and pathos is this brilliant, dark comedy by John Guare, directed by Pirooz Aghssa.

The Fantasticks

June 4-6, 10-12

Delightfully bewitching musical, book and lyrics by Tom Jones, music by Harvey Schmidt and directed by Ken Stevens.

For ticket information contact the EMU Box Office at 734/487-1221.
EMU Theatre - 103 Quirk - Ypsilanti - MI - 48197



Aubree's Saloon/Sticks, located 39 East Cross St. in Depot Town.

Eastern Echo/Mark Gjukich

Aubree's old-time spirit still remains same

Saloon and pool hall create a good-time atmosphere

By GARY BREDOW
Echo Staff Writer

In 1870, a group of men returning from the Civil War constructed the Carr Hotel in Depot town. Could they have guessed that people would still hang out in that very building over 130 years later?

The Carr Hotel, now known as Aubree's Saloon and Sticks, housed

stagecoach travelers along the Detroit-Chicago route until the construction of the railroad and the arrival of settlers.

Since the Carr Hotel, Aubree's Saloon has been the Neat House, Dad's Tavern and the Oliver House, named after Oliver Westfall who welcomed travelers with a downstairs saloon and an upstairs dining

room, as well as offering rooms for rent.

Men returning from World War II who enrolled at the University would come and unwind at the bar, which is a pastime that seems to be ageless.

Today, Aubree's Saloon and Sticks reside in this building with their own original style.

"It's mostly townies down in the saloon and some older college students," said Sandee French, half owner of Aubree's Saloon and Sticks. "They play darts and pool and it's a way to break away from the die-hard

party scene. Sticks is more of a college crowd."

Bill and Sandee French purchased the property in 1971, when Sandee was still an Eastern Michigan student. In 1981, they split the building into two separate enterprises, naming the second floor Sticks and the ground floor Aubree's Saloon, a combination of their two names.

"Depot Town is a very viable community and business district. Aubree's is a good place to come if your looking for a more mature environment," said Sandee. "We also have a patio off

the back of Sticks, so if you feel like hanging out outside above ground level, it's a great place to come."

During the summer, Aubree's Saloon sponsors Monday-Wednesday baseball leagues. In the fall, they have a dart league on Wednesday nights.

Both Aubree's and Sticks also serve food until 11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and until midnight on the weekends.

"It's a cool place to work. I mean the customers are cool, the owners are cool," said Joe Vahan, manager of Aubree's.

Alternative

Continued from front page

Peninsular Park of LeForge is home to a historic paper mill and mini park.

There's also Riverside and Frog Island parks. Frog Island has occasional festivals and Christmas lights in the winter.

Feeling Hungry? It's 3 a.m. and your dorm room mini-fridge is empty. Fret not, Gianni's Koney Island, 535 Cross St., and Abe's, 5 North Hamilton, are always open. These places are perfect for late-night gatherings of friends, munchie cravings or all night studying for exams.

Like sports? The Ypsi-Arbor Lanes, 2985 Washtenaw Ave., is open seven days a week. Shoe rental is \$1.50. Games are \$2.50 per person, or you can rent a lane for \$13 dollars per hour. There is also a billiard room, a snack bar and a cocktail bar. You don't need to be 21 years old to get inside.

If it's a night of theater you desire, then the Riverside Arts Center, located at 76 North Huron, is the ticket. Tickets for shows cost \$10 for students and seniors and \$12 for general admission. Shows usually run at 7 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays, and at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The center performs modern as well as older plays.

One place that is always open is Meijer, which can be the host of many great nights. Security doesn't like the place to be used as a hangout, but there is a lot to look at and buy. Make a day of it; get your hair cut, your shoes fixed, a sign made for your dorm room, pick out some posters, buy a pet fish, shop for groceries, have lunch at the McDonalds upstairs, or watch a movie in the video store. The possibilities are endless.

Be creative with your spare time. If you want things to do, there are many possibilities; you could even sit in your dorm or apartment and host role playing games to television shows like *Melrose Place*, *Dawson's Creek*, *Beverly Hills, 90210* or *Voyager*. Assign everybody a character in the show and when a corny line is said by the character, the person whose character that is has to do something equally corny.

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